

Residential Storage of Solid and Food Wastes

Improper storage of household wastes such as garbage can lead to a variety of pollutants in storm water runoff. Leaking garbage cans and yard waste containers without lids, scrap piles, junk vehicles and equipment can cause polluted runoff from residences to surface and ground water. Contaminated water carries oils, greases, nutrients, bacteria, pathogens, and suspended solids to our local water bodies.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

The following BMPs, or equivalent measures, methods or practices are required in storage of solid and food wastes at your home.

1

Dispose of unwanted garbage or scrap in your regular, contracted, garbage pick up containers, or dispose of garbage and scrap at a landfill or transfer station. Do not let garbage accumulate at your residence. The accumulation of garbage is a surface water concern and a health issue. Accumulated garbage can attract rodents, rats, mosquitoes, and other pests that are also health hazards.

2

Waste stored outside should be kept in covered containers or be covered with a tarp. All waste containers that are outdoors should have lids.

OTHER OPTIONS AND TIPS

1

Recycle as much as possible. Someone else may be able to use leftover paints, finishes, cleaning materials, building materials, etc. Contact a neighbor, friend, school, church, or community group to see if your left over materials can be used. The King County Industrial Materials Exchange (IMEX) is a good resource for finding uses for your left over materials. Call or send email to IMEX at 206-296-4899 or imex@metrokc.gov, respectively. Consult the IMEX Web site for more information, at <http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/imex>.

King County Solid Waste provides waste disposal and recycling events on a regular basis at no cost to King County residents. For more

information regarding proper household hazardous waste disposal, please contact the Hazards Line at 206-296-4692. The Hazards Line can also provide schedule information for the Wastemobile.

Small businesses needing assistance with hazardous wastes should call the Business Waste Line at 206-296-3976.

The Wastemobile Home Page is:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/hazwaste/wastemobile>



Compost biodegradable wastes rather than disposing of them as garbage. Contact the King County Solid Waste Division for more information on composting food scraps and yard wastes.



Bury pet waste in your yard (not in vegetable gardens) or dispose of in sanitary sewer systems such as your toilet.

For more information or assistance in implementing these best management practices, contact the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks Stormwater Services Section at 206-296-1900.